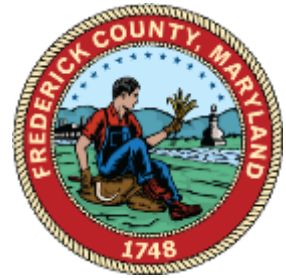




Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes for
8/17/16



FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Jennifer Bird, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Joe Richardson, Mike Swanson, Tim Jones

OSER: Shannon Moore

Public: Rich Maranto, Sylvia Carigan, Alysia Feuer, Tim Goodfellow, Alan Imhoff, Nina Carr, Travis Twigg

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. The Chair (Annie Jones) welcomed all FCSC members and guests.

II. Monocacy River Management Plan

- A. Tim Goodfellow of the Frederick County Planning Commission presented on the Monocacy River Management Plan.
 - 1. The current effort is an update to the 1990 Monocacy River Management Plan.
 - 2. The Monocacy watershed extends north to Gettysburg, east to Manchester, west to the Catoclin mountains, and south to Montgomery County. The river forms the dividing line between Frederick and Carroll County in the northern segment.
 - 3. The Monocacy River provides 28% of city's drinking water and is also used for discharge of treated effluent.
 - 4. The Monocacy River is a wild and scenic river with an advisory board and a management plan. The goal of the management plan is to increase prominence/appreciation of river. The 1990 plan was thorough, with over 100 recommendations; however, it's dated. Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and enhanced nutrient removal were not included back then. Many of the recommendations were achieved, such as improvements in wastewater treatment and agricultural best management practices (BMPs). The plan was updated and expanded with new data, sidebars on the Nitrogen cycle, and a river continuum concept. The plan proposes a resource protection area for enhancements, forest plantings, enhanced BMPs. The plan now includes a Monocacy National Battlefield description, updated information on the ecological environment, information from MD Department of Natural Resources on local species and suggested protection areas, and ecologically significant areas are included and described.
 - 5. The current plan is expected to be finalized in September 2016 and go out for public comment. The plan will be reviewed and adopted by the various jurisdictions bordering the river. The plan will be available online, in libraries, and county offices.
 - 6. River Resource Protection Area (RPA) –Important areas were identified along the corridor. GIS was used to identify resources. The river was divided into 16 segments. Steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, migration corridors were used to identify a width for the protection corridor. The 1990 plan identified a maximum width of 500 feet. 2016 recommends a minimum of 300 feet with max of 500 feet. The corridor generally follows the 100-year floodplain, except where the floodplain is more narrow.
 - 7. Stream buffer and wetland/floodplain regulations apply to the Monocacy River. There is potential for designating additional regulated areas within the RPA. This

plan is a series of recommendations and is not enforceable. The plan can be used for targeting tree planting and conservation areas, as an example.

8. The State established river boards for each scenic river. The river board meets once a month, in a public meeting. They comment on land development proposals and make recommendations for activities within the watershed that may impact the river. They participate in canoe trips and river cleanups.

III. Sustainability Indicators

A. Annie Jones presented on Sustainability Indicators and themes for upcoming meetings.

1. Sustainability indicators are used to review people/prosperity/planet or equity/environment/economy
2. Our bylaws tell us to establish indicators, develop a sustainability plan, set goals, and indicators.
3. What are our goals, why pick these indicators? Effective indicators are relevant, easy to understand, reliable, and based on accessible data. They combine aspects of environment, economy, and social issues.
4. August – focus on Acres of Watershed Restoration projects and Benthic Index of Biological Integrity.
5. How much watershed acreage has been restored? And what is on the docket to be restored?
6. 2014 – 682 acres required, approx. 700 restored. Use 2014 as baseline and collect data since.

At the next meeting we will develop a proposal on this subject matter.

The Livable Frederick visioning committee is currently compiling its survey results, and public interest in goals are included – FCSC will look to see what we want to adopt. Alan Imhoff has also developed indicators for the Council of Governments.

- (1) Alan - Watch for redundant indicators. Focus on those most meaningful. Other Livable Frederick workgroups are just starting a similar process.
- (2) Shannon – baselines for the County have been developed based on TMDLs, tools to model what is happening over time with pollutants. Other indicators like forest cover are also being reviewed at a county level. It would be helpful for FCSC to work with Livable Frederick to ensure the County is following through on indicators. What is the goal? How do you describe the resource and look at the health of the resource? An indicator is

a way to measure how we meet those goals. Next meeting, bring topics from workgroup, and determine which are valuable to take on.

Annie will ask Ron and Kevin to help us identify water quality indicators. Mike Swanson asked to help with housing indicators for next month.

IV. Vice Chair Items

- A. Approval of July Minutes, moved by Tom, and seconded by Joe. Minutes approved.
- B. Action Items: See that section of the minutes.
 - 1. Creating four committees: legislative and policy research, EPP, FCSC meeting/conference, Community Outreach.
 - (1) Legislative and Policy: CE requested FCSC to make legislative recommendations. Review solar initiatives as requested by Jerry Donald.
 - (2) In terms of solar farm initiative – how do we make solar farms and agricultural preservation compatible? Make a list of recommendations, compile information.
 - (3) Property assessed clean energy (PACE). Allows commercial entities to borrow against tax bills for clean energy projects. Hearings in Sept. Opportunity for FCSC to weigh in.
 - 2. Green teams – setting up liaisons. Reach out to the group, attend one or two meetings a year, make them aware of what we are doing, and find out what they are doing.
 - a) Sustainable MD working with municipalities to help each municipality be green.

V. Brief Updates

- A. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing.
 - 1. Ron talked to Sustainable MD, they are interested in partnering with FCSC on EPP efforts. They have re-occurring meetings, and will focus their next meeting on EPP. They have draft legislation we may be able to use. Early December or after New Year for a meeting. Invite local municipalities, have a speaker, let municipalities know what resources are available.
- B. Fall Sustainability Commission Public Meeting.
 - 1. Tom would like to establish a title for the meeting. Friday venue at Pinecliff Park considered. Alysia took Tom to Brookhill Church, may be available on Fri or Sat. Focus to be on Green Schools. Joe is a member of the MD Association of Outdoor

Educators. No Frederick schools certified as Green. 78 schools in Montgomery County are certified. Joe is working with MAEOE to try to get other schools involved. It may be hard to get administrators to come if there is no funding or continuing education credits.

2. Alysia met with Yellow Springs and they thought Friday after school would likely draw the most attendance. Anne Marie Kramer provided list of 25-30 people already working towards green school certifications. Yellow Springs principal offered to speak.
3. Annie – notify PTAs, science teachers. Suggest greening your organization, as opposed to specifically green schools. Ron – green homes challenge for businesses and institutions?
4. Green Your Scene, Frederick County Sustainability Commission Fall Meeting – to be held at Brookhill Methodist Church, Friday October 28, 2-6 pm. Tom motioned, Tim seconded, motion passed. Joe will take the lead in organizing the event.
5. Advertisement – Save the Date flyer, FB event.
6. Topics – how to create a green team, recycling, build a checklist based on the green homes challenge, SW management/rain barrels, green school certification, master gardener speakers, tables set up for various topics.

C. What's Next Committee and Commission Role in Solid Waste Initiatives.

1. Joe update: members on the steering committee looking at field trips – Veterans compost as example. Phase I findings being presented to County Council. Next step, what can we do and what will it cost. FCSC could possibly tag along on fieldtrips.

VI. OSER Update

-PACE passed by County Council. Plan between now and fiscal year 2020. \$52 million grant, \$4 million in other funding.

-Three RFPs for contractors to do tree planting and maintenance. Retrofit of Delauter Road. Landscape and SWM mngt.

-In construction on pond retrofit off Fingerboard road. In design phase for number of county ponds.

-Design work on Hunting Creek.

-Finished assessments for Lower Monocacy, Ballenger Creek and Little Hunting Creek

-Finished fieldwork for Pt of Rocks stream restoration and pond retrofit.

-New Chesapeake Conservation Corp member starting next week, maybe on tree planting program.

-Power saver retrofit program participation is full. The County is taking applications for the waitlist.

VII. Commission Members Items of Interest

Annie – Thanks to others for helping.

Ron – Frederick City Sustainability Plan completed and approved. Jenny Willoughby willing to present FCSC. Gentleman in Ireland bought his first electric car at age 101. Bought a Nissan leaf. First car was a Model T.

Jenn – Developing a Facebook plan, Tips for Tuesday, Fun Fact Fridays. Looking for input.

Tim – Solar farms – There are a number of potential uses for agricultural property. They are often used for alternative activities. Frederick Co wineries, breweries, cideries – additional use for ag properties. There can be more than one use for a property. If farm owners decide to change property use, can they do that without legislative roadblocks?

Tom – Forestry board, just sponsored students to go to DNR natural resource career camp for high school students. Always room for students.

Joe – talked to solar companies about solar panels on his property, looking at various options. Interested in PACE program for onsite improvements. Five bin recycling on his property is increasing. Trash production significantly reduced. Money savings noticed in reduced trash.

VIII. Public Comments

Alysia – Can we schedule meeting to discuss the fall meeting. – Tom will send out email to organize the meeting. Dana French has list of houses of worship, Ron has contact list for science teachers.

Rich Maranto – Question regarding green schools. How did MoCo reach 78? Through approaching individual schools? Or BOE? – Joe responded it was an individual school approach.

Sylvia Carigan - last meeting as environmental reporter. Samantha Hogan to replace. Sylvia is going to cover Ft Detrick.

Action Items:

8-18-16. Choose water quality/watershed indicators to help develop sustainability goals.

7-20-16. Councilman Donald asked FCSC to provide recommendations on Solar Farms by Sept/Oct.

7-20-16. FCSC will ask the County Executive about what she sees as our role in the Solid Waste initiative.

7-20-16. Three subworkgroups are needed and need volunteers: EPP, the Fall Event, and Solid Waste.

5-1-16. Sustainability Event in the fall. This would be a free meeting open to the public. It needs to be well planned three months in advance for October. Rachel will be on the work group with Tom. A theme, date, and location have been chosen. Planning efforts continue.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join.

10-8-15. County Green Teams: Ron has assembled a comprehensive list that includes municipalities with teams and contact information shown.

Adjournment: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.